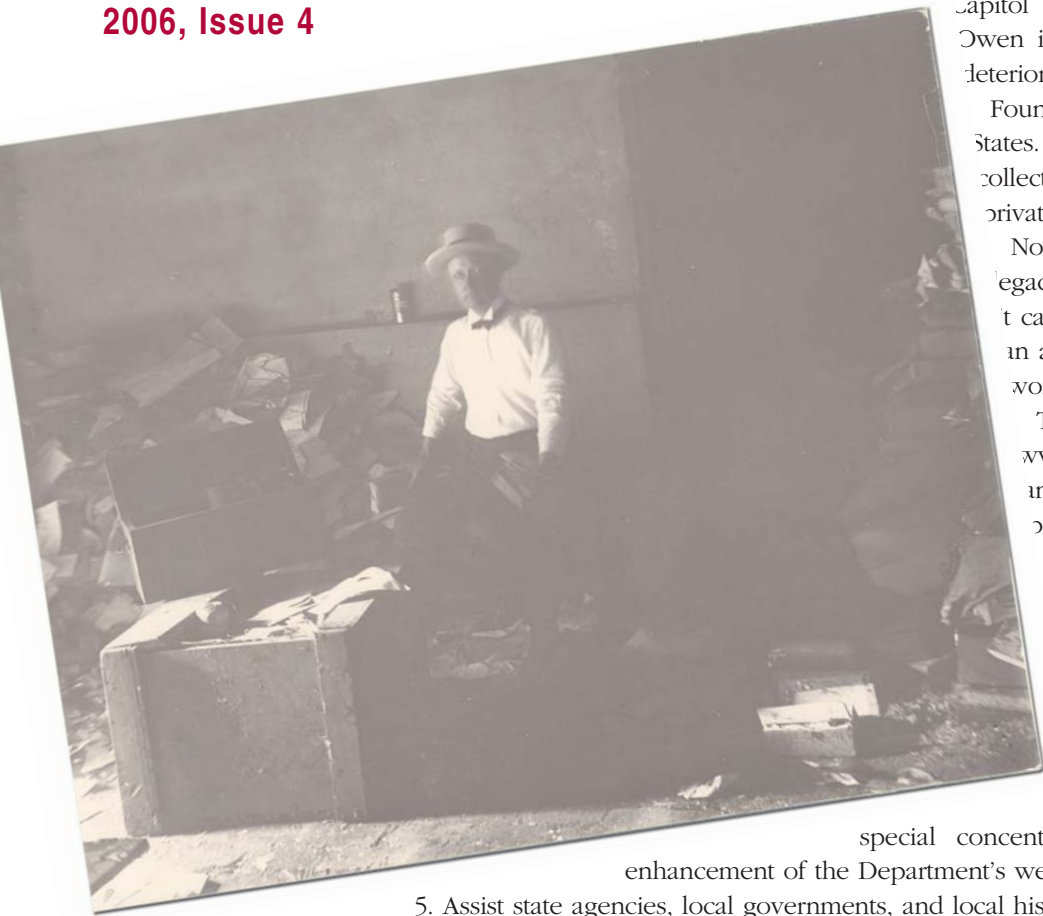




INSIDE:
Message from the President
Historical Records Board
Recent Acquisitions

# THE YEAR IN REVIEW

**FRIENDS OF THE ALABAMA ARCHIVES Newsletter**  
Published quarterly in support of the  
Alabama Department of Archives and History  
**2006, Issue 4**



AMONG THE MANY ARRESTING IMAGES in the Archives' photographic files is one from around 1900 showing Archives founder Thomas Owen standing amid disarrayed mounds of documents. A notation on the back of the photograph states that he is in the basement of the Capitol "assorting documents." Although the photograph is of poor quality, it is clear that Owen is rescuing records from an unkind fate, whether eventual destruction or complete deterioration.

Founded in 1901, the Archives was the first government agency of its kind in the United States. Owen, the Archives' director until his death in 1920, tirelessly went about the task of collecting and preserving not only the records of state government, but also a rich variety of private records and artifacts documenting the history of Alabama and her people.

Now in its second century, the Archives continues to build upon Owen's vision and legacy. And as with Owen in his time, the Archives staff still struggles to achieve the most it can with its finite resources. Accordingly, the Archives has engaged for many years in an annual strategic planning process to assess changing needs and to organize and focus work efforts.

The Archives' strategic plan, which can be viewed in its entirety at [www.archives.alabama.gov/FY07strategicplanfinal.pdf](http://www.archives.alabama.gov/FY07strategicplanfinal.pdf), maps out the department's goals and objectives for each fiscal year (October-September). The broad goals for five core program categories are:

1. Identify, appraise, and acquire books, records, and artifacts that document Alabama history and are appropriate to ADAH collections;
2. Catalog, manage, and properly preserve records and artifacts in the Department's custody;
3. Provide access to records and artifacts in the Department's custody and general reference information regarding Alabama history and government;
4. Promote an improved awareness and understanding of Alabama history with special concentration on history education in Alabama schools, museum exhibits, continued enhancement of the Department's website, and general programs of public interest;
5. Assist state agencies, local governments, and local history organizations in the proper care of records and artifacts of historic value

During Fiscal Year 2006, staff and volunteers carried out (or chipped away at) many new and special objectives, while also performing dozens of ongoing core tasks. Some of the many accomplishments—several of which were made possible by the Friends—are listed here:

- Developed a brochure to promote new acquisitions.
- Established a system for tracking acquisition leads and initiating solicitations for artifacts and records.
- Acquired 183 collections totaling approximately 960 cubic feet of records and 537 artifacts, not including the George and Lurleen Wallace collection, which totaled approximately another 1,000 cubic feet of records and artifacts.
- Initiated a program to electronically archive state agency websites; sites for 120 agencies were preserved through a service called *Archive-It*.
- Established the Archive of Alabama Folk Culture with grant funds and in partnership with the Alabama Folklife Association.
- Created container listings for 154 series of government records totaling 2,367 cubic feet and completed descriptions for 17 private collections and 150 artifacts; also entered 2,449 artifact descriptions into an artifact database.
- Cataloged 2,208 books, bringing project total to nearly 20,000.
- Served more than 5,000 visitors to the Research Room in addition to handling more than 12,500 research inquiries by mail, e-mail, and telephone.
- Provided copies to researchers of 70,208 pages, 436 photographs, 8 maps, and 1 videotape.
- Continued military service records data entry; database now contains A-O surnames.
- Continued digitization of historical legislative records.
- Completed scanning and text conversion of all the Governor's Executive Order books.
- Microfilmed 178 reels of newspapers and 70 reels of archival records.
- Continued scanning 1867 voter registration records.
- Provided specially planned museum tours for 20,897 students, with very favorable user responses
- Completed preliminary design phase for a major new Alabama history exhibit—"Alabama Voices."
- Opened the new second-floor Sampler Gallery.
- Hosted twelve ArchiTreats programs, with a total attendance of 1,469; also hosted a variety of other lectures, workshops, and special programs.
- Developed a weekly program in conjunction with Alabama Public Radio entitled, "This Week in Alabama History."
- Received 30,083,290 website hits from 3,329,202 user sessions.
- Convened the inaugural meeting of the revived state Historical Records Board after the Legislature passed and the Governor signed the legislation authorizing its establishment (see article inside).
- Operated the State Records Center, providing records storage for state agencies (see article on back).
- Assisted state and local government agencies in the orderly disposition of obsolete records—a total of 53,551 cubic feet this year and an enormous savings in space and equipment freed up.
- Continued to support the work of the State Records Commission and the Local Government Records Commission.
- Assisted a new legislative task force on Alabama's records laws, seeking support for changes in the law that will improve conditions for preserving and using historical records.
- Handled 1,648 requests for assistance in the care of records and artifacts.
- Continued the Loose Records Microfilming Project, now completed in 40 counties.
- Installed murals on Alabama history and culture in the Malone Lobby.
- Completed high quality digital images of the French Vine and Olive Colony wallpaper and produced a reproduction for the Hale Room hallway.
- Took delivery of the large-scale bronze map of Alabama, which now rests at the front entrance to the Archives (commissioned under the sponsorship of an anonymous donor).
- Held the *West Wing Fling* grand opening on October 8, 2005, an event that attracted about 1,000 visitors.
- Through the efforts of Sen. Richard Shelby received a directed federal appropriation of \$839,000, which boosted the museum project.
- Experienced a very successful legislative session, receiving a funding increase that in the new fiscal year is allowing for staff additions and re-opening of the Research Room and museum each Saturday.
- Ended the year with 98 volunteers on the rolls, who collectively provided 12,856 hours of service to the Department.



# Message from the President



Kathryn Braund

Friends board meetings are somewhat formal affairs with a set agenda and many reports from the staff about the workings of the Archives. There are also the sort of rather dull things that mean so much to the life and work of an organization: budget reports and reports from various committees. In short, one might not logically expect board meeting day to be the most exciting day of the year—after all, it is meant to be business. But what always strikes me about Friends' board meeting day is that in spite of the long slate of reports and business discussions, it is always one of the nicest days of my year.

Part of it, of course, is the people. Friendly folks who, like me, love Alabama history and who are delighted to devote time to the worthy efforts of the Friends. Just catching up with Friends from all over the state is a pleasant enough excuse to drive to Montgomery. But the real reason board meetings are such nice days is the joy and satisfaction that comes from hearing the detailed reports from the Archives staff. It is satisfaction—the kind you rarely receive from other endeavors—that comes from watching professionals do worthwhile business in an incredibly competent and expeditious manner with enthusiasm and good cheer. And as I was leaving the board meeting, I found that I wasn't the only Friend who felt that way. One of our board members confided that he too always felt great after our meetings. It seemed to him that our past—and our future—were in good hands. "It just makes you feel good to see people actually working hard and accomplishing something good." I couldn't agree more.

What have they accomplished? Well on top of helping manage the storage and preservation of our state government records (which is one colossal job), the staff has been involved in a massive microfilming project to help county governments preserve and make available their unbound county records. This has required a good deal of coordination and effort across the state from all involved. The project is now in its sixth year and it is nearing completion. These records not only are vital to the workings of local government, but essential for historians and genealogists. What else have those archivists and museum curators been up to? How about acquiring and processing numerous manuscripts, cataloging the rare book collection in the Archives library, acquiring additions to the museum and manuscript collections, and updating the web site: which last year had more than 3 million visitors. In fact, as you listen to their reports, you wonder if these hard-working employees bother to take breaks! In fact, as you listen to their reports, the professional pride that each staff member takes in their work is obvious.

If there is anything more satisfying than knowing that good people are working hard to accomplish worthwhile things, it is the satisfaction of knowing that average people like you and me can help them. Our organization raises funds to support the efforts of the Archives, including sponsoring lectures, purchasing computers and microfilm readers for patrons of the reference room, as well as manuscript material and museum artifacts. It is easy to help these busy folks. Just write a check to renew your membership and tell your friends to join up too. After all, there aren't very many things in life that are more satisfying than saving the past and preserving it for the future. It is a big job and the Archives staff deserves not only our thanks and respect, but our assistance.



Historical Records Board meeting in the Regions Boardroom at the Archives.

## HISTORICAL RECORDS BOARD HOLDS INAUGURAL MEETING

On August 31, representatives from Alabama historical, genealogical, and local officials' organizations convened at the Archives for the first meeting of the revived Alabama Historical Records Board (HRB). Such boards serve as the "central advisory board of historical records planning" in their states, under the auspices of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC). Any state wishing to apply to NHPRC for historical records grants must have a board in place.

At the inaugural meeting, Tracey Berezansky, Assistant Director for Government Records at the Archives, gave members an overview of their responsibilities and the role of NHPRC in providing grant support for historical records projects. Local records archivist Tom Turley provided a brief history of the Archives' local records program since Alabama's original needs assessment report was conducted in 1985. Among the board's initial actions will be developing a long-term plan for historical records preservation, creating by-laws, and establishing a procedure for reviewing NHPRC grant applications.

For further information on HRB activities and plans, contact the Archives' Government Records Division at (334) 242-4452 or [records@archives.alabama.gov](mailto:records@archives.alabama.gov).

## HAVE YOU HEARD . . .



Glenn LaFantasie signs books after his lecture on William Oates.

### SANDERS LECTURE

A large and enthusiastic crowd gathered at the Archives on September 12 to hear Glenn W. LaFantasie deliver a lecture on the remarkable life of William C. Oates, a Confederate commander who later served as a congressman and then governor of Alabama. The lecture was a special offering of the J.C.C. Sanders Lecture Series, funded by the Sanders Endowment at the University of Alabama with additional support from the Friends. The

Archives has in its holdings substantial collections of Oates' official and personal papers. In addition to the lecture, attendees enjoyed a reception in the main lobby and special displays in the Research Room of original records and artifacts relating to Oates. After the lecture Professor LaFantasie signed copies of his new book, *Gettysburg Requiem: The Life and Lost Causes of Confederate General William C. Oates*.

### STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

Ms. Jennifer Newman of Tallassee and Ms. Julia Ramsey of Montgomery, both graduate students in history at Auburn University, are the winners of this year's Friends Student Fellowships. They will receive \$800 each to help offset expenses incurred while conducting research using the collections of the Archives. Ms. Newman is researching religious attitudes of women on the southern home front during the Civil War. Ms. Ramsey's topic is American Red Cross Clubmobile drivers during World War II. Congratulations to them both.

### ONE OF THE BEST

In its August 2006 issue, *Family Tree Magazine* named the Archives' website to its annual list of the 101 best websites for genealogical research. Congratulations are in order to the many staff members and volunteers whose dedication and sensitivity to the needs of family researchers have made this recognition possible.



Mattie Adams' handmade quilt



## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Archives Registrar Linda Overman reported 54 accessions from July through September 2006. The acquisitions included records transferred from 15 state agencies as well as items from private donors and purchases made possible with funds from the Friends. The Archive of Alabama Folk Culture, founded earlier this year and housed at the Archives, received its first two donations during the quarter.

### A FEW NOTABLE ACQUISITIONS WERE:

- Quilt handmade by Martha "Mattie" Martin Adams, Shelby County, 1870s (pictured above)
- Draft of a 1923 speech on child welfare by Rep. Hattie Hooker Wilkins, the first woman elected to the Alabama legislature
- Bound volumes of the *Southern Courier* civil rights newspaper, 1965-66 (pictured below)
- Ceramic planter in a metal holder from Northington, a World War II POW camp in Tuscaloosa
- Girl scout uniform and accompanying items from a troop in Tuscaloosa, 1948-49
- Hand-woven counterpane and six handmade quilts, 1890-1955
- New Testament carried during the Civil War by Lt. H. Johns, Co. D, 2nd Ala. Infantry
- Five issues of the *Primitive Pathway*, a Primitive Baptist periodical, 1882 (pictured below)
- Color postcard showing "Welcome to Alabama" billboard, ca. 1960
- Taped interviews and supporting material from the Alabama Community Scholars Institute, 2004 and 2006
- Taped interviews and transcripts on the Cold War experience in Alabama (AUM class project), 2005-2006



Margaret Teague

### SOME OF THE ITEMS PURCHASED BY THE FRIENDS WERE:

- List of clothing, camp, and garrison equipage transferred by the U.S. Army, Huntsville, 1865
- Plastic poker chip from the Silver Dollar Club, Phenix City
- Election ballot, City of Brighton, 1948
- 1924 wanted poster, Alabama State Convict Department
- Sheet music for "Alabama: Here We Rest," 1931
- Tintype of Heflin resident Margaret Teague, ca. 1900 (pictured above)
- Black and white photograph of the state capitol, 1918



19th and 20th century special-interest newspapers

# Volunteer Profile

## HENRY & MARTHA DURHAM

Henry and Martha Durham are one of four married couples who volunteer at the Archives. Martha has been a volunteer since 1988. She works in the Government Records Division, where currently she is processing records regarding the 1954 assassination of Albert Patterson. She finds her work very satisfying and enjoys working with historical documents and the Archives staff.



Henry, known as "Doc" to Martha and his friends, has volunteered since 2001, having been recruited by Martha when he retired as a pediatrician. He works in the Public Services Division as a docent conducting Indian tours for the many fourth grade students who visit the museum each year. Currently he is also processing Montgomery photographer John Scott's very large collection of negatives spanning a career of more than forty years.

The Durhams, married for 52 years, have two grown children, Carol Sprouse and David Durham, and two grandchildren. When not volunteering at the Archives or spending time with family, Martha teaches conversational English as a second language to wives of international officers stationed at Maxwell Air Force Base. Doc enjoys tutoring elementary students in Montgomery County public schools. Together they enjoy taking walks, attending concerts by the Montgomery Symphony, and actively participating as members of Capitol Heights Baptist Church, where Martha's dad was pastor for many years.



### FRIENDS OF THE ALABAMA ARCHIVES MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

#### Yes, I want to be a Friend.

☐ Please enter my membership with all benefits including a subscription to the FRIENDS FACTS newsletter, a 10% Gift Shop discount, and free or reduced admission to Archives-sponsored events. (Subscriber level members and above receive a 1-year subscription to *Alabama Heritage* magazine.)

**Membership fees are tax-deductible.**

- ☐ New Member  
☐ Renewal

- ☐ Family/Individual \$25  
☐ Contributor \$50  
☐ Subscriber \$100  
☐ Sustainer \$250  
☐ Sponsor \$500  
☐ Patron \$750  
☐ Benefactor \$1000

#### I'm interested in becoming a Volunteer.

(Circle areas of interest.)

Museum Tours Children's Gallery  
Reception Desk Gift Shop Research Room  
Behind the Scenes (collections & clerical tasks)  
Special Events & Projects  
Junior Volunteer (ages 14-17)

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

County \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ My check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.  
☐ Please bill me later.

Make check payable to and mail to

### FRIENDS OF THE ALABAMA ARCHIVES

P.O. Box 300100, Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0100  
(334) 353-4689 allison.gore@archives.alabama.gov  
[www.archives.alabama.gov/friends/main.html](http://www.archives.alabama.gov/friends/main.html)





FRIENDS OF THE ALABAMA ARCHIVES  
Founded 1982

Alabama Department of Archives and History  
624 Washington Avenue  
P.O. Box 300100  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0100  
www.archives.alabama.gov

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit No. 365  
Montgomery, AL

ArchiTreats Lunchtime Lecture Series

Bring a sack lunch and enjoy presentations on Alabama history the third Thursday of each month from 12:05-12:50 p.m. in the Alabama Power Auditorium.

December 21

Alabama Folk Pottery:  
An Overview  
—Joey Brackner

February 15

Art at the Archives  
—Robert Cason

January 18

A White Preacher’s Message  
on Race and Reconciliation  
—Rev. Robert S. Graetz

March 15

The South Did This to Me  
—Rheta Grimsley Johnson

FRIENDS OF THE ARCHIVES  
Executive Committee

President: Kathryn Braund, Dadeville  
Vice President: Jim Lee, Huntsville  
Secretary: Marcia Collier, Titus  
Treasurer: John Scott, Montgomery

Board Members

Richard Bailey, Montgomery  
Suzanne Barnhill, Fairhope  
Romelia Blackburn, Tuscaloosa  
Rep. Barbara Boyd, Anniston  
Gary Burton, Hope Hull  
Don Donald, Pine Apple  
Louis Finlay, Jr., Jackson  
Jerry Galin, Hanceville  
Ted Hooks, Anniston  
Martha Houston, Montgomery  
Watkins C. "Wat" Johnston, Jr., Montgomery  
Mike Mahan, Montevallo  
Gordon Martin, Montgomery  
Elaine McDonald, Montgomery  
Charles Moore, Florence  
H. Van Morgan, Jr., Florence  
Derryn Moten, Montgomery  
Charles Newton, Greenville  
Judge David Rains, Fort Payne  
Delaine Ray, Mobile  
Frances Robb, Huntsville  
Nancy Rohr, Huntsville  
Elaine Smith, Montgomery  
Garland Cook Smith, Birmingham/Camden  
Louretta Wimberly, Selma  
Thomas Ziemann, Jr., Mobile

ARCHIVES BOARD OF TRUSTEES

District 1:  
Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb, Chairman  
Vaughan I. Morrisette  
District 2:  
Maury D. Smith, Charles A. Stakely  
District 3:  
Fred D. Gray, Bernice B. Price  
District 4:  
Bobby M. Junkins, Morris W. Savage  
District 5:  
Joel T. Daves IV, Shirley D. McCrary  
District 6:  
James E. Simpson, Vice Chairman  
Oclo S. Malone  
District 7:  
June F. Davis, George P. Evans  
At Large:  
Van L. Richey, Gillian W. Goodrich  
Ex-Officio Member: Gov. Bob Riley  
Ex-Officio Secretary: Edwin C. Bridges

ARCHIVES & HISTORY FOUNDATION  
Executive Committee

President: Charles A. Stakely, Montgomery  
Vice Pres.: Temple W. Tutwiler III, B'ham  
Treasurer: Henry S. Lynn, Jr., Birmingham  
Secretary: Edwin C. Bridges, Montgomery  
At Large: M. Taylor Dawson, Jr., Montgomery  
Joseph M. Farley, Birmingham  
Marsha G. Folsom, Cullman  
Oclo S. Malone, Navarre, Fla.  
Vaughan I. Morrisette, Mobile  
Ex Officio: James E. Simpson, Birmingham  
Maury D. Smith, Montgomery

Board Members

Leah Rawls Atkins, Birmingham  
H. Brandt Ayers, Anniston  
Albert P. Brewer, Birmingham  
Rebecca O. Byrne, Fairhope  
Thomas N. Carruthers, Birmingham  
J. Mason Davis, Jr., Birmingham  
Norman B. Davis, Birmingham  
Marvin R. Engel, Birmingham  
Gillian W. Goodrich, Birmingham  
Fred D. Gray, Tuskegee  
Therese G. Greer, Mobile  
Bradley Hale, Thomaston  
Ethel H. Hall, Fairfield  
Victor H. Hanson, III, Birmingham  
Wyatt R. Haskell, Birmingham  
Joyce C. Hobbs, Montgomery  
J. M. Jenkins, IV, Montgomery  
Willie R. Jones, Montgomery  
N. Harper Lee, Monroeville  
Elizabeth J. Lowe, Huntsville  
F. David Mathews, Dayton, Ohio  
Charles D. McCrary, Birmingham  
Jane P. McDonald, Union Grove  
N. Floyd McGowin, Jr., Chapman  
Lee O. Mitchell, Bay Minette  
Catherine J. Randall, Tuscaloosa  
Yetta G. Sanford, Opelika  
James H. Sanford, Prattville  
Barrett C. Shelton, Jr., Decatur  
Frances H. Smiley, Montgomery  
C. C. Torbert, Jr., Opelika  
Juleann F. Torrence, Dothan  
Eddie L. Tullis, Atmore  
J. Scott Vowell, Birmingham  
W. Michael Warren, Jr., Birmingham  
Robert S. Weil, Montgomery

Board Members, Emeritus

Val McGee, Ozark  
Harry M. Philpott, Auburn

Board Members, Ex Officio

Archbishop Oscar H. Lipscomb, Mobile  
Kathryn Braund, Dadeville



State Records Center manager John Durden unloads records at the center.

The State Records Center: Low Cost, Great Savings for Storing State Agency Records

Even though many operations in state government now use computers, there are still large important systems that rely on paper. One of the services provided by the Archives is the operation of the State Records Center, which provides storage for state agency records that must be maintained for specific periods of time but are not accessed on a daily basis. With the cost of space in state agency office buildings ranging upwards from \$8.00 per square foot, the state realizes a substantial savings by storing inactive government records in a warehouse facility where the costs are much lower.

As part of its full-service records management program and in response to the Governor’s Management Improvement Program, the Archives opened the State Records Center in 1989. The facility is located in the old power plant of the Montgomery trolley system. The center has storage space for over 40,000 boxes of inactive agency records.

Until 2003, the Archives provided this storage service free-of-charge to state agencies. Since that time, agencies have paid 35 cents per month for each box stored at the center, making the center a self-supporting operation. This fee covers pick-up service for new records transfers to the center, retrieval and delivery service to return



records or boxes to state agencies, retrieval and faxing services for copies requested by state agencies, and destruction service for records that are eligible for destruction. John Durden manages all of this work with one part-time student assistant plus state inmate help one day a week.

On average, the Records Center assists state agencies in disposing of over 5,000 boxes of non-permanent records annually. This destruction and the savings gained by storage in a low-cost facility represent significant cost avoidance savings to Alabama state government. It also promotes a more orderly system for managing huge quantities of records where information can be readily retrieved when it is needed.

Recent Donations

Rothschild Charitable Trust  
Herbert and Peggy Stockham Family Foundation  
Colonial Dames of America in the State of Alabama